



Jeff DuMont

July 27, 2009

RE: Ryan Viken

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing as a reference to recommend Ryan Viken be hired as the Varsity Baseball Coach at ST Helens High School. As a long-time & current youth sports coach, a successful college baseball player, a 25 year Nike employee and a husband & father for 23 years, I know what it takes to be successful on and off the sports field. I also feel I'm qualified to judge others who have what it takes to be successful.

I have known Ryan for a number of years as a coach, friend and a peer and have been fortunate to have my son play on a youth baseball team which was coached by Ryan. While the team was successful, my greatest appreciation for Ryan was in the manner & style in which he coached. His past experiences as a player and coach were visible in how he taught & coached the boys, but I was more impressed in how he communicated and motivated the boys to improve and learn new skills. Good players don't always make good coaches; however, good coaches can make good players. I believe Ryan has both: good baseball experience, and exceptional coaching skills.

If selected to the varsity baseball coach, Ryan will have responsibilities that are greater than team wins and losses. He will be responsible for teaching life skills on the baseball field that these players can use to be successful in life, in whatever path they choose. While many athletes have visions of being a professional athlete, like me when I was playing, it's more important that our youth have goals to go "pro" in something other than sports. As a successful athlete, and a successful business man, Ryan has the skills and experience to help the team unlock their potential on and off the field and to help prepare them for what lays ahead once they graduate from high school.

When I'm hiring for an open position, I look to find someone who has a passion for what they do. ST Helens is fortunate to have a candidate like Ryan Viken who has a passion for what he loves; which is teaching kids on the baseball field. As you know, you'll be hiring more than just a baseball coach at ST Helens, it will be someone who will mentor and provide direction for student athletes as they prepare themselves for the real game, the game of life. As you'll learn when you get to know Ryan, he is the right choice for ST Helens; he has everything you'd like to see in a coach who will be responsible for teaching students athletes and representing your school.

If you have further questions on Ryan, or my letter supporting Ryan, please let me know.

Thanks & Best Regards

Jeff DuMont
Nike, INC
Global Director Footwear Engineering & Manufacturing

7